

REMARKS

Claims 6 to 9 are pending. Claims 6 and 7 are currently amended.

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

§ 112 Rejections

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the silicone particles is present in an amount of 3-10 wt%. Support for this amendment can be found, e.g., in applicant's written description on page 2, line 19 stating "mat material (composed of silicone particles) 3" and on page 3, line 27.

In summary, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome, and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,888,625 (referred to herein as "Kobayashi"). Applicant traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Kobayashi discloses a reusable recording paper obtained by coating or impregnating a substrate comprised primarily of a pulp fiber with a liquid composition comprising a curable silicone compound and a finely divided material. The silicone compound is capable of directly combining with a surface OH group, i.e., OH group of cellulose as a main constituent of pulp fiber or OH group of the finely divided material, by a chemical reaction. Thereafter the liquid composition is dried. See col. 4, lines 6-14.

Applicant has amended claim 6 to state that its substrate is plastic. Support for this amendment can be found, e.g., on page 2, line 32 of applicant's written description.

Because Kobayashi's invention is limited to substrate comprising pulp fiber, it cannot anticipate applicant's invention. Furthermore, applicant's claim 6 recites that the silicone particles are at least partially exposed at the surface of the information recording layer 2. Kobayashi's invention, on the other hand, does not mention that its silicone compound is exposed but instead the

silicone compound combines and reacts with the OH group of the cellulose in the pulp fiber substrate. Thus, for at least these reasons, applicant's invention is novel over Kobayashi.

The rejection of claims 6-9 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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